

## FROM THE CHAIR

*Richard Feltham*

At the MLS autumn meeting at the Swedenborg Hall, it was great to have presentations by first-time presenters. Well done to all who took part, and I look forward to future presentations. We still need more members to give it a try and present their unique take on magic lantern shows. If you have an idea for a presentation about, or using magic lanterns, then please let us know.

My apologies to those of you who were watching online for the technical difficulties during the Swedenborg meeting. It is always a challenge to bring you the meetings live, and I thank George Auckland and Frog Morris for providing, transporting equipment, arriving early to set up, operating the systems during the meeting, and packing up after the meetings.

We currently have a vacancy for a 'Sales Promotion Officer'. Basically we need somebody to help with our book sales – these are vital to the Society finances. Please email me if you could take this on.

It was sad to hear that MLS member Stephen Bromfield who had been with us at the summer meeting, had unexpectedly passed (see p. 2). Our thoughts and condolences are with his family at this time.

### **Questions Answered**

I have been asked a number of questions about movement in slides – how do 'moving' slides work? What is the difference between dissolving slides and mechanical slides? There are many types of moving slides, and I won't cover them all here. The differing types allow for a variety of movements and effects to be shown, and are often used in conjunction with each other to great effect. The basic types are:

#### ***Slipping slides***

These give a 'left/right' movement, with a quick change from one view to another. These usually consist of a fixed image in a wooden frame, with a moveable glass that slides in and out and has either a moving image (like eyeballs) or areas that black out parts of the static image.



There are also double slipping slides that have moving parts on both sides of the fixed image. This allows effects like flowers opening.

#### ***Hand-cranked slides***

In most cases hand-cranked slides give a circular motion, but not always. These, again 'usually', consist of a wooden frame with a crank handle on one end. The image is often (but not exclusively) circular and can consist of one or more moving plates, fixed plates, or even animated automata. The most common of these are probably chromatropes, which can be found with one or two moving discs, with or without a fixed image, and even interchangeable discs! There are many variations of this mechanism from astronomical slides to phantasmagoria slides.

#### ***Lever slides***

The motion of these slides is variable, from rocking with a circular movement (ship rocking on water, nodding animal) to vertical up-and-down moving images. They can be single or double and may look similar to hand-cranked slides, but with a simple lever operation.

#### ***Long slides***

Although not technically mechanical, they provide a panoramic or sequential motion, e.g. a parade or a series of pictures in a story.

#### ***Dissolving slides***

Dissolving slides provide a means for fading a particular scene from one state to another (day to night, summer to winter, etc.) or for introducing an effect onto another slide (such as an angel appearing and then disappearing).

This is not a definitive or exhaustive list of animated slides, and you can find combinations of one or more in a single slide. There are also slides that work in combination with specific slide carriers. Look at the MLS website, other member's websites or even previous auction house catalogues to get a better understanding of the ingenuity of slide makers and what is out there.